

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 4, 2022

**Invites the congregation to stand*

Gathering Music Handbell Choir
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Arr. Jason Krugg

Words of Greeting Haley Blackwell

Prayer of Submission Haley Blackwell

Preparing Our Hearts David Benton
Comfort Ye and Every Valley from Messiah George F. Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley, shall be exalted and every mountain and hill made low.
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain

Song of Peace Children's Choir
Light the Candle J. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of peace. Let its glow warm your heart till your soul finds release. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

Lighting the Candle of Peace Redding Family

ONE: Advent is a season of waiting, but we do not wait alone.

ALL: God is with us.

ONE: We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, and felt the tugs in their hearts.

ALL: God is birthing peace into the world. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with us. As we worship with hearts open, we receive God's gift of peace as we pursue peace with God.

***Hymn of Advent**
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

Family Dedication
Carly & Dan Redding present Margaret Grace (Mae) Redding

The Dedication Covenant Rev. Kheresa Harmon

MINISTER: Do you, Carly and Dan, covenant together to raise Mae in an environment of Christian love, harmony, and peace?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Mae the benefits of communal fellowship by nurturing Mae within the Church, the corporate body of Christ?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you, congregation, covenant together as the larger family of God to create an atmosphere of support and guidance whereby Mae can come to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

CHURCH: We do.

MINISTER: Do you pledge to make your witness of such quality as to instruct Mae in Christian discipleship?

CHURCH: We do.

MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by Carly and Dan and by the congregation, I offer Mae this certificate acknowledging her formal introduction into this family of God.

Presentation of the Child Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Prayer of Dedication Dr. Foust

***Song of Blessing** Congregation

Mae, Mae, God claims you;
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.
We this day do all agree a child of God you will always be.
Mae, Mae, God claims you;
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Kristin Wallace
Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness, he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

Offertory Prayer Paul Huffman

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
When God's Time Had Ripened Alfred Fedak

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit, scion of the godhead, sprung from Jesse's root: so the True Vine branches from the lilies stem, the rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem. More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine, this mysterious yoking, human and divine, but what reason fetters faith at length unlocks, and wise hearts discover truth in paradox. As the bread of heaven, that we might be fed, chose a Manger cradle in the House of bread, so has life eternal mingled in the womb with our mortal nature to confound the tomb. For this swaddled infant in a humble place holds our hope of glory and our means of grace; in the love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

***Presentation** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him; Christ the Lord.

Message Dr. Foust
A Playground of Peace

The Evergreens & Holly Natalie Turner

***Carol**
The Holly and the Ivy Traditional English Carol

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

Refrain
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our dear Savior.

Refrain
Handbell Anthem Handbell Choir
Angels We Have Heard on High Arr. Jason Krugg

We invite the children to come down during this song.

The Chrismon Trees Rev. Harmon

***Carol**
O Chrismon Tree Traditional German Carol

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree! thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree! thy leaves are so unchanging;
not only green when summer's here, but also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree! thy leaves are so unchanging!

The Church at Prayer Rev. Lee Gray

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

Margaret Falls, Betty Herr, Tarsha Williams,
Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey

***Hymn of Peace** Chalice Hymnal No. 677
Let There Be Peace on Earth WORLD PEACE

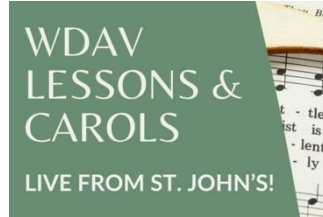
***Commissioning the Scattered Church** Dr. Foust

***Postlude** Dr. Matthew Manwarren

Announcements

WDAV Lessons & Carols LIVE from St. John's

Join WDAV & St. John's for the 2022 Lessons & Carols LIVE on the air from the Sanctuary for the first time back since COVID hit in 2020.



The concert will feature on WDAV and in person this coming Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm. There will be a reception afterward with light refreshments. Admission is FREE and open to the public. We can't wait to see you!

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon: Thursday, December 8

We are all looking forward to the annual Senior Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 8 from 11:30 am -1:30 pm in Broach Hall. Many of you have already let your Pastoral Deacon or Bobbie Hinson know that you plan to be participate in the festivities that day. If you did so, we look forward to seeing then. If you not yet made a reservation but would like to participate or volunteer to help, please let Bobbie Hinson know by emailing her at bobbie.hinson@providenceday.org

The Mailboxes are Back!

St. John's Neighbors and Friends Mailboxes

The annual Christmas Mailbox for St. John's Neighbors and Friends is located at the main entrance in the gym foyer. There you will find a mailbox with boxes for each recipient, new blank Christmas Cards, and a list of friends and seniors to whom you can write.

Please place your cards in the community mailbox by worship on Sunday, December 18. The collection of cards for each senior will then be delivered by a pastoral deacon, a staff member, or other volunteer during the next week. Out of town recipients will have their cards mailed in one bulk envelope.

Coats and Blankets for Children and Adults

Our mission partner, ourBridge for Kids, is collecting new and gently used coats (all sizes), blankets, and other warm clothing for immigrants and refugees served in their programs. If you would like to participate you can bring your items to St. John's anytime from now until Sunday, December 11, and we will transport them to the ourBridge location where they will be distributed at a gathering on December 15. Please leave your items in the alcove at the main entrance of St. John's.

Pledge Cards for the 2022 Financial Ministry Plan Update

As of Dec. 1, we have received:
114 commitments
Representing financial gifts of \$726,372



St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship on December 11
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: Do You Hear the Joy I Hear?
Message Title: 'Ears of the Deaf Unstopped'
Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 4	<p>9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)</p> <p>11:30 am Gingerbread House Making (Broach Hall)</p> <p>11:30 pm Youth Lunch & Poinsettia Delivery</p>
Mon., Dec. 5	<p>11:00 am Matthew 19:1-12</p> <p>Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)</p> <p>2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)</p>
Tuesday, Dec. 6	<p>Matthew 19:13-30</p> <p>WDAV Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)</p> <p>8:00 pm WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)</p>
Wed., Dec. 7	<p>Matthew 20:1-19</p>
Thursday, Dec. 8	<p>Matthew 20:20-34</p> <p>10:00 am Needle Ministry (Lounge)</p> <p>11:30 am Home for Christmas Senior Luncheon (Broach Hall)</p> <p>6:00 pm Thursdays on the Town @ Abugida Ethiopian Cafe</p>
Friday, Dec. 9	<p>Matthew 21:1-22</p> <p>5:30 pm CIS Holiday Literacy Celebration (Broach Hall)</p> <p>8:00 pm Eastway AA (Lasater)</p>
Saturday, Dec. 10	<p>Matthew 21:23-46</p> <p>6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym)</p> <p>8:00 pm Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)</p>

Membership and Ministry

If you would like information on how you can become a member of St. John's, please call the church office (704.333.5428), or fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. One of our ministers will be happy to reach out to you and answer any questions you may have. Visit our website to find out more information regarding the many ministry opportunities available in the life of St. John's.

Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Worship and MusicJ. Kevin Gray
Minister for Congregational Care Rev. Lee Gray
Minister for Children and Their Families Rev. Kheresa Harmon
Minister for Youth and Young Adults Haley Blackwell
Senior Minister..... Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Church Staff

Custodians Chris Mullis, Debora Thon
Church AdministratorJill Rackley
Media CoordinatorMallory Brown
Ministry Coordinator Amanda Morrison
Organist J. Noel Lance
Associate Organist Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Children's Music Director Chloe Hall
Weekday School Director Lydia Olmsted



Do You Hear What I Hear
Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 10:30 AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA